

27 April 1953

BRIEFING NOTES FOR
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE IRANIAN SITUATION

Ready but
not used
NSC
4/28

Appointment of Deputy Minister of Court.

The Shah's appointment of Abol Ghassem Amini as "Deputy Minister of Court" on 25 April is a gesture of good will toward Mossadeq whose supporter he has been. It is also aimed at calming the Prime Minister's suspicions of the Court. The position of "Minister of Court" which had been held by Hussein Ala will presumably remain vacant while Amini assumes Ala's former duties.

Amini, related to Mossadeq and also by marriage to the Shah's half-brother Abdor Reza, belongs to one of Iran's wealthy and prominent families. His appointment, approved by Mossadeq, is, however, not likely to change the Prime Minister's determination to reduce the Shah to a figurehead and to eradicate all army loyalty to him.

Murder of Tehran Police Chief.

In the case of the murdered Tehran Chief of Police, General Afshartus, the Mossadeq government has assembled 1200 pages of sensational evidence linking to the crime such prominent personalities as Mullah Kashani, president of Parliament, Mozaffer Baghai, prominent parliamentary leader, and retired General Mozayani. The case broke when Mozayani's chauffeur confessed.

Pending fuller information there remains some doubt as to who is actually guilty and what the motives were.

The Mossadeq government will attempt to use the murder as an opportunity to smear all opponents and to arouse public passions. The Court has not yet been implicated; but it and the British are likely targets. The Tudeh press has already launched its own campaign and has included the American Ambassador among those involved. Outbursts of public violence are possible.